

CJ Galdes

From: Kerry DeBano
Sent: Monday, May 05, 2014 10:05 AM
To: Tony Mosesso
Subject: FW: Breast Density Bill - SB 879

From: Law, Christine M. [<mailto:CLaw@ClarkHill.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 02, 2014 4:26 PM
To: Kerry DeBano
Cc: benzm@mercyhealth.com; Stephen.Rechner@spectrumheath.org; MichaelFreed@priorityhealth.com; scottnorman1032@comcast.net; Scott.Norman@priorityhealth.com; breastdensitymattersmi@gmail.com
Subject: Breast Density Bill - SB 879

Dear Senator Marleau,

I am writing in support of the proposed bill that would support further testing for women with dense breasts. I was diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer in 2012. I had no family history and no risk factors. I was 46 at the time of my diagnosis and had had a mammogram every year since I turned 40. Every year they came back normal. In fact, I had a normal mammogram three months before my diagnosis. I was always told that I had dense breasts but I didn't know what that meant. It wasn't until after I was diagnosed when I was looking through the binder the hospital gave me with all of my tests and other literature that I realized what having dense breasts meant. In the very back of the binder was a tab with all of my previous mammogram reports. I read on at least one of them "patient has dense breasts, may benefit from further testing". I was devastated. Why had no one ever told me that an ultrasound in connection with my mammogram would catch cancer that was not detectable from mammogram alone??? Breast density matters. It is much harder to see cancer through dense breasts. Women with dense breasts should be told this and allowed to have further testing.

Thankfully my cancer is in remission but I would have loved to have caught it earlier than stage 2 when I could have possibly avoided chemotherapy, a mastectomy and radiation. While treatment has come a long way and more women are surviving breast cancer, many women still needlessly die of this disease when it is detected too late. It's appalling to me that at least several doctors looked at my reports, saw that my breast tissue was dense, recommended that I could possibly benefit from further testing but that information was never passed along to me.

Breast density matters. Let women with dense breasts get the tests that they need. I guarantee it's more cost effective to let a woman have an ultrasound and catch a cancer early than to have it caught later and need more expensive treatment. More importantly, women could be spared the devastating experience of undergoing chemotherapy, losing their hair, losing a breast or two and having their lives turned upside down for a year or two, or longer.

Thank you for your time.

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